

## **Special Session: What do we really mean by Scaling up Ecohealth Interventions?**

The session was organized by IDRC and took place on August 13<sup>th</sup> 2014 during the Ecohealth 2014 Conference with the participation of 5 panelists (see below, Roberto Briceño Leon acting as facilitator). – After a short introduction by Roberto Bazzani (IDRC) and Roberto Briceño Leon, four scaling-up experiences were presented taking place in different geographic regions and addressing issues of habitat change and communicable diseases, changes in agriculture patterns and use of pesticides. The session had a dynamic format with the facilitator adopting a journalistic style. The four experiences aimed at applying research results in a larger scale and/or influencing public policies. Based upon initial successful results, the scaling up interventions had to address different challenges that were solved with different degrees of success. The facilitator made an emphasis in the discussion of the difficulties faced by the four experiences as well as the strategies developed to address them. Restrictions included from cultural to legal and administrative barriers, replacement of decision makers during the scaling up process and changes of strategic stakeholders, diverse interests not always convergent, and in some cases difficulties in understanding the benefits of the large scale intervention. The session was very well received by the participants, the meeting room was full and the timing was well managed by the facilitator. Participants highlighted the importance of discussing lessons learned from concrete experiences of the practice instead of keeping the discussion at a theoretical level.

**Title of special session: What do we really mean by Scaling up Ecohealth interventions?**

**Conference Theme: Moving between research and action: Mobilizing knowledge to benefit health, ecosystems, and society**

**Format: Interview style conducted by facilitator with dynamic engagement of the audience.**

### **Abstract**

Site-specific ecohealth research can provide practical examples of how ecohealth interventions can bring positive change in people's health and livelihoods. However, bringing to scale social, technological or policy innovations rooted in ecohealth research is often challenging. Scaling up implies shifts in interests, visions, constituencies and trade-offs (costs and benefits) that involve interactions across multiple spatial (e.g. field, farm, watershed) and socio-political (e.g. household, community, municipality, region, country) scales.

This special session aims to examine how ecohealth research interventions can be scaled up to effect change at higher geographic scales, or different communities. Some key questions that will guide the discussions at this session are: What happened? How did it happen? What are some challenges and lessons learned? What are some key insights and strategies which can be adopted by other researchers in other contexts?

The proposed special session brings together ecohealth researchers from Africa, Asia, Middle East, and Latin America, who have worked on scaling up ecohealth interventions in a variety of topics such as prevention and control of vector borne diseases; food diversity and nutrition; land use change and public health among others.

**Chair & facilitator:** Roberto Briceño-León, PhD. Director - Laboratorio de Ciencias Sociales, LACSO. Universidad Central de Venezuela.

**Proposed panelists:**

- 1) Fang Jing, Institute for Health Sciences, Kunming Medical University, People's Republic of China
- 2) Carlota Monroy, Laboratory of Applied Entomology and Parasitology, Universidad de San Carlos de Guatemala
- 3) Rachel Bezner Kerr, Lizzie Shumba or Esther Lupafya, Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi.
- 4) Mohamed Chahe Koun, Head of Epidemiology department. Mami Hospital, Faculté de Médecine de Tunis

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